

## KITCHEL REVEALS 1960 BIRCH LINK

Goldwater Campaign Head  
Quit After 2 Weeks Over  
Attack on Eisenhower

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WASHINGTON, July 18—

Denison Kitchel, the director of former Senator Barry Goldwater's Presidential campaign in 1964, acknowledged today that he joined the John Birch Society in 1960.

But Mr. Kitchel said he and his wife quit within "10 days or two weeks," immediately after he read "The Politician," a book in which the society's founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., characterized former President Eisenhower as a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Mr. Kitchel, a Phoenix lawyer, has recently become the president of the Free Society Association, a new conservative education group with Mr. Goldwater as its honorary chairman. One stated purpose of the new organization is to provide conservatives a more acceptable vehicle than the John Birch Society.

Mr. Kitchel's membership in the Birch Society is discussed for the first time in a book on the Presidential campaign, titled "What Happened to Goldwater?"

The author is another Arizona political figure, Stephen Shadegg, who served as Mr. Goldwater's manager in the Oregon primary and later in other Western states.

The book is scheduled for publication on July 30. Mr. Kitchel volunteered his own ver-

sion of his Birch Society membership in an interview.

He said he had never heard of Robert Welch until the spring of 1960, when a number of friends urged him to attend a two-day seminar Mr. Welch was conducting at a country club in Phoenix.

Mr. Kitchel did not attend the first night's meeting but his wife did. At her urging, Mr. Kitchel said, he went to a public meeting on the evening of the second day of the seminar.

Mr. Kitchel said he was introduced to Mr. Welch at the end of the meeting by M. T. Phelps, a former Chief Judge of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Later, he said, he commented to his wife:

"This guy [Mr. Welch] is fascinating. What he says frightens me to death, but he has a lot of interesting information of Communism."

Mrs. Kitchel then applied for membership in the Birch Society for herself and her husband.

### Borrows Welch's Book

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Kitchel said, he borrowed a copy of "The Politician."

Mr. Kitchel displayed a photostatic copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Welch and dated June 6, 1960—about six weeks after the Welch seminar.

The key paragraph of the letter read:

"In my opinion, this document ["The Politician"] embodies the most scurrilous attack on the President of the United States which could possibly be made. It contains charges, based entirely upon inference, which I am reasonably certain the author would not have the temerity to make public. Furthermore, it represents the type



The New York Times

Denison Kitchel

of irresponsible, sensational writing which is best designed to undermine and destroy the very institutions which the John Birch Society was ostensibly designed to preserve."

Mr. Kitchel's letter closed with a request that the Kitchel memberships "be considered as terminated," and he said today that their dues had been returned promptly. Mr. Kitchel sent copies of the letter to Mr. Goldwater, Judge Phelps and others.

Although Mr. Goldwater was presumably aware of his campaign director's brief membership in the John Birch Society, it remained a well-kept secret through last year's campaign, when Democrats were seeking repeatedly to link the Republican nominee to far-right organizations.

While Mr. Goldwater refused

repeatedly to make a blanket condemnation of the society and its members, the Goldwater organization carefully screened any known Birch Society members from positions of responsibility in his campaign.

Mr. Shadegg, in his forthcoming book, said this policy was cited as the reason why he could not accept the offer of Ernest H. Swigert to become finance chairman of the Goldwater campaign in Oregon. He identified Mr. Swigert as a founding member of the John Birch Society.

The book says:

"One of Swigert's close personal friends urged me to ignore the injunction. I don't see how you can refuse Ernie the job on the ground that he's a member of the Birch Society when I happen to know that Denison Kitchel was an early Bircher. . . . Later I checked the story through contacts in Belmont, Mass. [the society's headquarters].

"It was true. Kitchel had been a home chapter member in 1960-61. . . . and had subsequently resigned long before Goldwater appointed him to manage his campaign, because Welch charged Eisenhower with being a Communist."

Mr. Shadegg, who managed Mr. Goldwater's successful Senate campaigns in 1952 and 1958, is highly critical in the book of Mr. Kitchel and others who had principal responsibility for the 1964 campaign.

He said in an interview today that "if the general campaign director had been a member of the John Birch Society, I think it's strange they had this rule." However, he added:

"I think from a political standpoint, they were probably right [in banning Birch Society members]. Goldwater suffered tremendously from people who unfairly criticized him for being the candidate of the John Birch Society."